proposals are included in the Annual Plans subject to the framework and the guidelines laid down in the 7th 5 year Plan. For 1988-89, the Ministry has received proposals from the State Governments/ Union Territories and these relate to cen-iral financial assistance for infrastructure development at tourist centres, cultural tourism, beach tourism; wildlife tourism, yatri niwases; adventure and sports tourism, flood lighting of monuments, sound and jightshows etc. The Ministry does not allocate funds either State-wise or project-wise but scheme-wise. 'The Ministry provides financial assistance to States for creation of toarism infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments. These proposals are taken up for financial assistance subject to the potential of the place, existing infrastruture existing and projected tourist traffic, overall merits of the proposal, viability of the project, avil-ability of the project, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

**Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education**

610. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOUR CE DEVELOPMENT be please'd to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held in the 'second week of September. 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held and conclusions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of education are given in the attached state ment. *[See* Appendix CXLVTU Annexure No. 30].

**Shortage of maritime officers**

611. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whetheT shipping industry in the country is facing shortage of maritime officers, especially nevigating and engineer. ing officers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government pro pose to take to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANS* PORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Some of the shipping companies have re-ported shortage of merchant navy officers .

(b) The intake of cadets in T.S. Rajendra and Directorate of Marine Engineering Training, Calcutta has beep increased.

**Tritium obtained by Pakistan for nuclear warheads**

612. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is making efforts to obtain Tritium, an element used to increase the power of nuclear warheads, in order to develop thermonuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, What steps Government have taken to counter this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Gov-ernment are aware of such reports.

(b) Government maintain a constant vigil on all developments having a bearing on the country's security. Our apprehensions regarding the clandestine procurement by Pakistan of materials for its weapons-oriented nucelar programme have been conveyed to all concerned.